GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3692
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2016
Adulteration of Jewellery
Misra Shri Ajay (Teni)

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether customers in India have to bear huge losses on account of adulteration of precious metal jewellery items including those of gold and silver with other metals;
(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to make Hallmarking mandatory for the sale of gold and silver jewellery;
(c) if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the aforesaid move is likely to affect the sales and prices of the jewellery; and
(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) : Madam, Gold and silver jewellery sold to the consumers in the country are both hallmarked and without hallmark. Regarding hallmarked jewellery, no large scale adulteration in the country has been reported. However in case of jewellery sold without hallmark, BIS had conducted two market surveys in the past. Details of the survey are given below:

Particulars	Results of Survey of 2001	Results of Survey of 2006
Sample size of survey	120 samples in 8 cities	162 samples in 16 cities
Samples failing	89 %	90%
Average Shortage in purity	11 %	13.5%
Highest purity shortage	38.6%	44.6%

(b) to (e) : At present no proposal for making Hallmarking mandatory for Gold and Silver Jewellery as per the enabling provisions of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 is under consideration of the Government.

The hallmarking charges are Rs 25 per article. Therefore, cost of hallmarking as a proportion to the total cost of jewellery is negligible.

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